



January 10, 2022

Greetings Mount Vernon Christian School Community,

I hope you all had a great Christmas Break and that you find great joy in this New Year. As I write this, January 6th, it is Epiphany in the church calendar. Epiphany means “appearance” or “manifestation” in Greek. It is the celebration of the visit of the Magi. For me, it is another reminder of the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. As we embark on a new year, we embark on new opportunities to be Christ to all who desperately need love, hope, peace and joy. Our glorious task is to work with students every day to help them become Christlike and bringers of that needed love, hope, peace and joy.

Here are some updates or reminders:

- **Celebrate His Provision through His People!!** In 2010 our end of year giving campaign raised \$7,500. Last year we experienced our largest dollar amount given for the end of year campaign with gifts totalling \$190,079. This year MVC was given **\$209,355.85** for our end of year campaign and we received **another \$150,000** from a donor for our future building campaign. Thank you for your generous support. Please join me in thanking God for His provision.
- **Our Promise, Needs Your Help:** We are totally committed to continuing in person instruction. Many schools in the area have taken remote days and are planning to go remote for a few weeks due to not having enough staff. We will not do that. However, we need your help to make sure we can remain in person every day. We are looking for people who can be “On Call”. This would mean that you would get a call about 7am to come in to facilitate monitoring a classroom. You would not be required to be a substitute teacher, or to deliver a lesson. You would take attendance and then proctor a room that has all the instruction provided via students google classroom accounts and our teachers video feed. If interested, please email Monica Droog mdroog@mountvernonchristian.org and she will send you the information and gather what we need. This is for grades 7-12.
- **Sometimes Leveling Up is Not Good:** For the first time we are at [Level Orange](#) with 10 students out due to recent positive COVID-19 tests and 18 others in quarantine. All of the exposure happened over Christmas Break with one known outbreak among high school students traced to a gathering over break. It is likely that we will continue to see a rise in cases on campus and may experience our first on campus transmissions.
- **Do Your Part:** Please remember to screen your children prior to attending school each day. Page 7 of the [Return to School Playbook](#) has the screening questions. Please see other updates from us about underlying conditions, etc.
- **Everyday We're WONDERING:** The CDC changed the isolation timeline for a positive Covid-19 case from 10 days to 5 days, if someone remains symptom free. WA DOH considered schools congregate settings and did not change the length of isolation. However, on Friday we received new guidelines and we can now allow faculty, staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 to return after 5 days of isolation, if they are symptom free, and they use our test to return and test negative.
 - For example if I test positive tomorrow (Day zero), and then isolate until day 5 (Sunday), I could test Monday morning and if negative I can return to work at school.
- **How Much Longer??** Prior to Christmas the Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS) again lobbied OSPI and the Governor's Office to establish thresholds for the current mask



mandate. With no clear end date, as independent schools we are pressing for thresholds, or the ability to make our own. With proper mitigation strategies, schools have been excellent at containing any possible contraction or spread of COVID-19 with very few cases and limited outbreaks. This includes all districts in the US, public and private, and all mitigation strategies. Here is a link to districts with their student mask policies identified [Map Covid Impact](#). Governor Inslee's speech on Wednesday, January 5th indicated that there will be no threshold or movement for students to not wear masks. Therefore, we have partnered with a group of schools and we are developing our process for moving out of mandatory masks for children in a school setting. I am finalizing the first draft of our rationale. We believe to best serve our students we need to care for the whole child. We know that our students' physical, social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual well-being need to all be considered in what we require or do not require. I have great resources and do not need any resources or consultation. I do however covet your prayers, specifically asking for discernment and that I clearly communicate our position.

- **Vaccination Information:** The state of Washington currently requires 16 vaccinations to attend school. If COVID vaccinations are added to the list, MVC will allow exemptions as we have in the past. We will keep families updated if needed.
- **Enrollment Information:** Space will be limited next year. We will open up new applications in January and re enrollment for current families will begin February 14. All current students who re enroll prior to March 1 will retain their spot. We will process the new applications beginning March 1, 2022.
- [Washington School Report Cards](#) for all Districts are available. This report card is through 2018-2019. There will not be data for the last three years as testing was not required. You select the District and then the School you wish to see from the pull down window. There is a very nice PDF for each school if you would like to print a copy. In light of the current schooling formats, educational experts predict a significant drop in students meeting grade level standards. We have continued to test and MVC students' grade level readiness increases as they move up each grade starting at around 75% readiness and ending as high as 99%. For those who like comparative data, here are the MVC scores that are not reported via the OSPI platform.
 - Cost of Education Per Student \$8,500
 - Students k-8 meeting grade level standards
 - ELA 86.1%
 - Math 88.1%
 - Science Stem Scores in top 10% Nationally
 - 4 Year Graduation Rate 100%
 - Students Regularly Attend 100%
 - In High School we measure College Readiness which is more difficult than grade level standard. We exceed the National Ready and Exceeding percentiles in every category.
 - College Composition Readiness 94-99% (National 44%)
 - Reading 82-88% (National 44%)
 - Math 78-86% (National 35%)
 - Science 77-83% (National 29%)
- **For complaints related to the mask mandate, please go through the [Governor's Office](#).**

Wishing you all the best in 2022!!

Jeffrey A. Droog, Superintendent
Mount Vernon Christian School